FORDHAM UNIVERSITY
THE JESUIT UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

FORDHAM IT

March 4, 2008

Federal Communications Commission
C/o Marlene Dortch
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Please include in the record for 07-51

Dear Ms. Dortch,

I am the Executive Director of Information Technology at Fordham University, New York, New York. I wish to thank the Federal Communication Commission for promoting competition within the telecommunications industry. It is important for administrators like me to have viable alternatives to the local cable operator for video programming and to the regional bells for voice and data. It has been both productive and advantageous working with our private telecom provider, Privatel Inc.

Our video-programming lineup is not dictated to us. Privatel assisted us in customizing our video programming to match the interests and needs of our students and faculty at a lower cost. Their services are of great value to the university. They are attentive to our needs. They have established campus wide community channels that are now apart of our student communication system. We have become dependent on this venue. We utilize them for fast student and facility notices, such as cancellations of class or lectures, as well as security notifications. It is reassuring to know that we have the means to quickly react to any campus emergencies or life threatening situations. We feel that Privatel is a part of our organization.

I also respectively request the commission to revisit the forced access rules as these may adversely impact the security of our student population. Today, with the assistance of Privatel, we have our own Emergency Alert System (EAS), which is an invaluable tool for our campus Security Office. If we are forced to allow multiple operators to serve our student community, our ability to distribute emergency messaging would be negatively impacted. In addition, forced access of multiple providers will further complicate the physical security of our campus and resident halls.

Thank you

Dr. Gerard Cariffe

Gerard Cariffe, Ph. D
Executive Director, Fordham Information Technology